

Arson Prevention

Office of the
State Fire Marshal
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm>



A guide for preventing arson in your community

What you should Know:

Reduce the Opportunity for Arsonists to strike:

1

Maintain

- Keep leaves, firewood, overgrown brush, shrubbery and other combustibles away from buildings. Trim or remove shrubbery and signs that obstruct the view of the building from the street.
- Be sure there are no combustible items stored near the outside of your home or business.

2

Secure

- Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Illuminate building exteriors and entrances. Motion activated lighting is effective and inexpensive.
- Install burglar and fire alarm systems. Alarm devices can be inexpensively wired through the telephone circuits to transmit an alarm to the police and/or the fire department.
- Keep doors locked and bolted with hinge-pins on the inside. Reduce the number of keyed locks and keep a record of who has a key.
- Secure your vehicles.
- Consider fencing the property. Woven wire fences with locked gates limit access without providing privacy for the arsonist.
- Be wary of strangers. Encourage friends and neighbors to document any suspicious activities. Note date, time and a description of vehicles. Standing watch or conducting irregular patrols can be very effective.

3

Publicize

- Make a media event of your efforts. Arsonists seldom strike facilities that are ready for them.
- Report suspicious activity near a house or other building to the local police and support Neighborhood Watch programs.
- Contact the Arson Alarm Foundation 1-800-55 ARSON to report arson information. Arson Alarm offers cash awards to callers who provide information leading to the arrest or conviction of arson suspects.
- The National Insurance Crime Bureau also offers cash awards to callers reporting suspected insurance fraud. 1-800-TEL-NICB.

Reference: *United States Fire Administration, on line at*
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/1-240.pdf>; also see
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/arson/arson-aaw1.shtm>,